



AAPG

Eastern Section

April 18, 2016

Dear ES-AAPG Member,

The excitement continues!! Activity levels in our great section remain at an all-time high, despite the fact that we are in an industry downturn. This is an amazing time of year for AAPG members, and what follows is a partial list of all the action and exciting events going on around us in the Eastern Section. Please check out our [website](#) for additional details on all of these events.

Local Societies

Many local societies are holding Spring Field Trips, BBQ Dinner Meetings, and AAPG Distinguished Lectures. Some societies will be holding their annual Student Night, where awards are given to students for their outstanding presentations of the work they are doing at universities.

DPA and YP events

These events are drawing large crowds of geoscientists who recognize the value of these events to their careers. Dan Billman and Mike Canich (DPA President) recently put on a DPA sponsored Playmakers forum in Pittsburgh, attended by 85 professionals including several students as well. All day series of presentations included many local geoscientists and distinguished guests such as Charles and Linda Sternbach, Rick Fritz and Ted Beaumont from TX and OK.

Coming soon in May, YP Liaison Merrill Stypula and DPA President Mike Canich are organizing a first of its kind YP/DPA event where several experienced professionals (EPs) will share their career stories with YPs over food, drinks and networking.

IBA Competition

Eastern Section IBA competition has just taken place this past weekend, bringing together seven teams of the brightest, most energetic and well-prepared graduate students from Wisconsin, Southern Illinois, West Virginia, Penn State, Kentucky, South Carolina and Georgia. Coordinated this year once again by Katharine Lee Avary, the teams consisted of the following students. UW-M: David Watkins, Alexander Hammond, Melissa Reusche, Sarah Bremmer, Rachelle Turnier; SIU: Andrea Meado, Jason Williams, Jessica Whiteaker, Chijoke Idoko, Eric Heuneman; WVU: Jeremiah Bernau, Connor Gieger, Greg Hammond, Thomas Paronish, Yixuan Zhu; PSU: Ben Madara, James Neely, Martin Jimenez, Nana Xu, Seyi Ajayi; UK: Samantha Burk, Bailee Hodelka, Emma Larkin, Patrick Whalen; USC: Erica Rubino, Katherine Hickok, Ahmet Postaagas, Ceren Postaagas, Ziyad Albeshier; UGA: Devon Verellen, Corbin Kling, Sarah Wright, Erik Alberts, Bolton Howes.

Election of Delegates

Some local societies are still holding elections for delegates to represent their turf for the next three years. This is an important procedure to ensure proper representation of local societies in the House of Delegates (HOD), as well as fulfilling AAPG's requirements for affiliation.

Teacher of the Year Award

This year's Eastern Section finalist Karen Waterbury, 4th grade teacher at St. Mary's School, Mt. Carmel Illinois was selected by AAPG judges as this year's 2016 TOTY awardee and will be in Calgary in June to accept her award. We are pleased to congratulate Karen on this tremendous achievement!

Executive Committee Winter Retreat

Eastern Section Executive Committee met last month for the first ever 'Winter Retreat' at the Netherland Hotel in Cincinnati OH. Past President Joan Crockett, VP John Hickman, Secretary Patrick Gooding, Treasurer Andrew Waggener, and AAPG Advisory Council Representative Pete MacKenzie joined me for a weekend of highly productive meetings and activities to brainstorm and plan for the future of the section.

Awards Committee

Our Eastern Section Awards Committee, chaired by past President Joan Crockett is in the process of finalizing this year's Eastern Section awardee. This is a difficult and time consuming task requiring thoughtful consideration and research of deserving contributors.

Abstract submittals and presentations

Professionals and students throughout the section are working on abstracts to be submitted for presentations and posters (deadline May 20) at this fall's annual ES meeting in Lexington, KY. Those presenting in Calgary are busy putting finishing touches on presentations of the important work they have to show to their peers in just 2 short months.

Students preparing for graduation

Graduation is right around the corner for many of our student members. A mixture of hope, anticipation and anxiety fuel the hundreds of students preparing for graduation in May. Occasional optimistic News headlines of reports for improving commodity prices seem to be slowly increasing in number, which could help to bring back jobs.

Preparation for Annual Meeting

General chair Dave Harris along with all of the individual planning committees for the 2016 annual ES meeting are diligently working to ensure another phenomenal annual meeting for ES AAPG members.

So much to do, so little time...

As professional geoscientists, we all can recall and appreciate the hard work that goes into getting a geoscience degree, whether it be a BA, BS, MS, or PhD. All of us have been there and remember the long arduous hours spent trying to keep up and be successful as a student. We also remember how important it was, or could have been, having someone as your sponsor or mentor, showing you the way thru the quagmire of complexities involved in deciding what options are out there, and what to do next.

Student/Alumni Focus: Student Chapters

Our student chapters program provides an excellent way to connect students with professionals. Dan Chandonais chairs this committee and has the responsibility of keeping open the communication lines with all 46 of our eastern section student chapters. He provides guidance, support, and resources so that each student chapter is connected and in compliance with AAPG requirements. This enables the chapters to receive funding and access to other resources. Dan tirelessly runs each year's Student Leadership Conference during the Student Job Quest, chaired by Dr. Tim Carr, preceding each annual meeting. In addition faculty and industry advisors are always needed and appreciated to assist in the success of each of these chapters.

Visiting Geoscientists Program

Since most of our professional members are alumni from universities here in the Eastern Section, there are simple things you can do to have a huge impact on the future of the AAPG. Connecting with students from your school is fun and rewarding for professionals, and can be very helpful and inspiring to students. What you know and have experienced is of great interest to students. They get to see how someone who was where they were in the past has taken certain steps to become a successful geoscientist. You can do this on your own, or take part as a Visiting Geoscientist thru AAPG's Visiting Geoscientists Program (VGP). The Eastern Section coordinator for this incredible AAPG program is Dr. Lone Taylor at Queens University in Ontario, CA. Coming soon to our website – more on VGP. For now, see [this link](#).



Imperial Barrel Award

One of AAPG's greatest programs is the IBA or Imperial Barrel Award. Yes it is a competition, and every team wants to be number one, but way more importantly, it is a tremendous opportunity for graduate students to take part in prospecting with real world well and seismic data. IBA allows students the opportunity to participate in the fascinating process of putting together a sound geologic explanation to support or refute the probable existence of hydrocarbons in a prospect. Also, many thanks to the tireless efforts of the faculty advisors who are a key part of this program. This year's winning teams in our section, in order from 3rd to 1st place were Georgia, Kentucky and Penn State. We are pleased to congratulate Penn State who will go to Calgary in June to represent Eastern Section in finals competition against finalist teams from 5 other sections and 6 international regions.

I'm sure you are thinking by now, wow, that's a lot to digest. (If not, check your pulse) For each of you however there is likely some aspect of AAPG that fits you just right.

So how can you jump into the action and make a lasting impact on the future of Eastern Section AAPG and our profession? There are tons of opportunities to serve and contribute on committees and leadership, or thru attending and participating in annual meetings as speakers, judges or session chairs.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to have been involved want you to know how rewarding it can be and invite you to join in on the excitement!

Oh, and while you are here, please check out what's new on our website for even more extraordinary content and information being updated every week.

Lastly, I want to announce that there are [FREE UPGRADES TO MEMBER STATUS FOR QUALIFYING ASSOCIATES!!](#) Not to beat a dead horse (but I will anyway), but this is a simple and worthwhile process, with many of you having already taken the step to upgrading your membership status.

Sincerely,



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